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September 17, 2001

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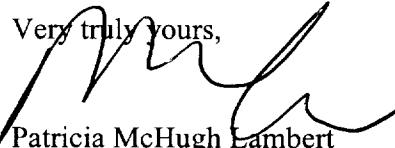
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The Honorable J. Frederick Motz
United States District Court
for the District of Maryland
101 West Lombard Street, Room 510
Baltimore, Maryland 21201

Re: New Jersey Manufacturers Insurance Group v. Nationwide Mutual Insurance Company,
et al.
Case No.: JFM-01-CV-2384

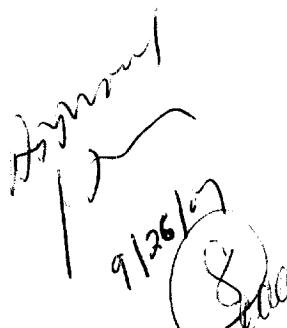
Dear Judge Motz:

I have been advised by parties for the plaintiff that they will be filing a notice of voluntary dismissal of this proceeding (there is another proceeding pending in Virginia). In order that they may do so without the need for all parties signatures, Nationwide has not filed an answer. I have discussed this with plaintiffs counsel and they have agreed to an indefinite extension of the time for filing the answer so that this may be accomplished. Accordingly, I am requesting that the court grant such an extension.

Very truly yours,

Patricia McHugh Lambert

PML/jhm

cc: Thomas V. McCarron, Esquire
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9/26/01